



Patuxent Wildlife Research Center *Science Brief for Resource Managers*

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Science Brief PWRC 2003-40

Date: March 2003	Contact: Chandler Robbins	Phone: 301-497-5641	Email: chan_robbins@usgs.gov	Address: USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center Laurel, MD 20708-4015
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Technical Assistance

Description:

Technical assistance is provided in many forms, but generally as direct response to inquiries from federal or state governments (e.g., USDA, FWS, MD DNR, DE DEC), County governments, Scientific Societies (AOU, WOS, AFO), foreign conservation organizations (CWS, *FUNDAECO*, BTO), or private citizens. Inquiries are received almost daily by e-mail, telephone, FAX, or mail. These range from questions about survey, census, or banding methodology or bird identification (including sound recording, hearing aids and photos) to effects of forest fragmentation on bird distribution, to requests for peer review of manuscripts, search of historic breeding or migration records, or design of bird atlas projects or data entry forms.

hazards of wind turbines to migrating birds and for estimating strike rates at existing turbines.

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For more information about Patuxent and our science, please visit our website at
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Progress to Date:

Replies to email inquiries that I happened to retain a copy of totaled 169 for calendar year 2001 and 207 for calendar year 2002. Requests ran rather steady at 40 to 60 per quarter. I kept no count of telephone calls or office visitors. Inquiries from FWS and state officials, industry representatives, NGOs and private citizens regarding potential effects of tall wind turbines on migrating birds dominated the scene in mid-winter.

In April 2003, the historic Bird Distribution and Migration card file, which has been housed at Patuxent since the 1940s, will be moved to a storage facility in nearby Laurel because of deteriorating conditions in Nelson Laboratory. This file of some five million published and unpublished records for the period 1880-1970, sorted by species, state, and nation, will still be available to researchers, but only by prior arrangement.

Management Implications:

We are working with FWS and State officials to develop suitable protocols for evaluating potential